

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /064 W

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R 291040Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

SECSTATE WASHDC 5698

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3236

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJ: GROWING STUDENT UNREST IN ISTANBUL

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 3101; (B) ISTANBUL 1308

1. STUDENT CLASHES BETWEEN EXTREMISTS OF RIGHT AND LFT REPORTED
REF (A) CONTINUED THIS WEEK IN SERIES OF INCIDENTS AT ISTANBUL
UNIVERSITY, STUDENT YOUTH HOSTELS AND PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS. GROUP OF RIGHT-WING "COMMANDOS" WHICH NOV. 24
MARCHED ON ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY SEEKING REVENGE FOR BEATING OF
ONE OF THEIR NUMBER ENCOUNTERED GROUP LEFT-WING STUDENTS ARMED
WITH CLUBS, STONES AND KNIVES. AFTER RIOTERS DISPERSED BY POLICE
IN ARMORED VEHICLES, UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES CLOSED LAW,
MEDICAL AND ECONOMICS FACULTIES FOR THREE DAYS IN EFFORT CALM SITUATION.

2. VIOLENCE ERUPTED NOV. 28 AT ISTANBUL STATE ENGINEERING AND
ARCHITECTURAL ACADEMY, WHERE ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS,
LEFTIST GROUP CLOSED SCHOOL'S DOORS DEMANDING CHANGE IN SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION. REACTION BY STUDENTS FROM RIGHT BROUGHT
POLICE INTERVENTION AND INDEFINITE CLOSING OF ACADEMY. SAME
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DAY STUDENT BOYCOTT CAUSED CLOSURES STATE FINE ARTS ACADEMY.

BOYCOTT ALSO REPORTED AT SAKARYA ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE ACADEMY IN ADAPAZARI.

3. CAMPUS VIOLENCE PARALLELED BY FIGHTING BETWEEN "COMMANDOS" AND LEFTISTS IN STUDENT YOUTH HOSTELS OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY AREA. THE PREDOMINANTLY LEFTIST ATATURK STUDENT HOSTEL, WHICH EARLIER THIS YEAR (REF B) WAS A FOCAL POINT FOR COMMANDO-LEFTWING INCIDENTS, CONTINUES TO BE SCENE OF IDEOLOGICAL CLASHES. FIGHTING NOV. 22 AND 24 RESULTED IN SEVERAL ARRESTS AND CASUALTIES.

4. COMMENT: ACTIVIST GROUPS FROM LEFT AND RIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPLOITING FOR IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES STUDENT DISCONTENT OVER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES SUCH AS FOOD PRICES, EXAMINATION SYSTEMS ETC. AS PART OF POWER STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY FOLLOWING SUPPRESSION OF LEFT DURING 1971-73 MARTIAL LAW REGIME. ALTHOUGH CLASHES BETWEEN IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED STUDENT GROUPS TOOK PLACE WHILE RPP LEADER ECEVIT WAS IN OFFICE, SPREAD OF VIOLENCE TO CAMPUSES THEMSELVES SEEMS TO BEAR OUT PREDICTIONS THAT DEPARTURE OF ECEVIT, WHO WAS VIEWED AS RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON STUDENTS, WOULD REMOVE ANY INHIBITIONS ON PART OF EXTREME LEFTISTS. SINCE LOCAL RPP LEADER KOTIL TOLD US EARLIER THAT PARTY HAD GIVEN STRICT INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT ADHERENTS TO REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE SUGGESTS RPP'S INFLUENCE ON FAR LEFT DECLINING. VIEW MOST OBSERVERS HERE IS THAT THIS ONLY BEGINNING OF LONG STRUGGLE BETWEEN STUDENT FACTIONS.

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